(152)

R. 105 b. 7

R. Bill Wor
Lieps

By the King.

¶ A Proclamation for the maintenance and encreaſe of the Mines of Saltpeter, and the true making of Gunpowder, and reforming abuſes concerning the ſame.

THe King our Souereigne Lord, taking into ſerious and prouident conſideration, the moſt neceſſary and impoꝛtant vſe of Gunpoẅder, as well foꝛ ſupply of his oẅne Royall Nauy, and the ſhipping of His louing Subiects, as otheꝛẅiſe foꝛ the ſtrength, ſafety, and defence of His people and Kingdomes, and hoẅ great a bleſſing it is of Almighty God to this Realme, That it naturally yeeldeth ſufficient Mynes of Saltpeter foꝛ making of Gunpoẅder, foꝛ defence of it ſelfe, Without any neceſſitie to depend vpon the dangerous, chargeable, and caſuall ſupply thereof from foꝛreigne parts; Hath, (With the aduice of His Priuie Councell) concluded and ſet doẅne certaine Oꝛders and Conſtitutions, to be from henceforth inuiolably kept and obſerued, foꝛ the better maintaining of the breed and increaſe of Saltpeter, and the true making of Gunpoẅder, and foꝛ reforming and ſuppꝛeſſing all abuſes concerning the ſame, in theſe Articles following.

1. FIrſt, that no perſon oꝛ perſons whatſoeuer, Within this Kingdome of England, oꝛ Dominion of Wales, doe from henceforth paue With Stone oꝛ Bricke, oꝛ flooꝛe With Board any Doue-houſe, oꝛ Doue-coat, oꝛ lay the ſame With Lime, Sand, Grauell, oꝛ other thing, Whereby the growth and increaſe of the Myne of Saltpeter may bee hindꝛed oꝛ impaired, But ſhall ſuffer the flooꝛe oꝛ ground thereof to lie open, With good and mellow earth, apt to bꝛeede increaſe of the ſaid Myne and Saltpeter, and ſo continue and keepe the ſame.

2. That no Inne-keepers, oꝛ others, that keepe Stables foꝛ trauellers and paſſengers, doe vſe any deceitfull meanes oꝛ deuices, Whereby to deſtroy oꝛ hinder the growth of Saltpeter in thoſe Stables; And that no Stables at all be pitched, paued oꝛ grauelled, where the hoꝛſe feet vſe to ſtand, but planked onely, Noꝛ be paued, pitched oꝛ grauelled, befoꝛe the plankes next the mangers, but that both places be kept and maintained With good and mellow earth, fit and apt to bꝛeede and increaſe the Myne of Saltpeter, and layd With nothing Which may hurt the ſame.

3. That all and euery ſuch perſon and perſons, as hauing heretofoꝛe had any Doue-houſe, Doue-coat oꝛ Stable, (Which were then good nurceries foꝛ the bꝛeed of Myne of Saltpeter) haue ſithence caried out the good mould from thence, and filled the place againe With Lime, grauell, ſand, rubbiſh, oꝛ other like ſtuffe, oꝛ paued oꝛ flooꝛed the ſame, Whereby the growth of Saltpeter Myne there, hath been decayed oꝛ deſtroyed; ſhall, and doe Within thꝛee moneths next comming, take vp the layd paue-ments and boards againe, and cary out the layd Grauell, Lime and offenſiue ſtuffe from thence, and fill the place againe With good and mellow earth, fit foꝛ the increaſe of Saltpeter, thꝛee foote deepe at the leaſt, and ſo continue and keepe the ſame foꝛ the bꝛeed of Saltpeter Myne.

4. That no perſon or perſons, of What degree or eſtate ſoeuer, ſhall hinder or deme any Saltpeter-man, lawfully deputed thereunto, in the digging, taking, or Working of any ground or earth which by Commiſſion may be taken and Wrought for Saltpeter; Nor any Conſtable, or other Officer doe, or ſhall forbeare or neglect to furniſh any ſuch Saltpeter-man, With conuenient cariages neceſſary for his Worke; And that all and euery Juſtice, and Juſtices of the Peace of any County, Citie, or Corporation, to whom the ſayd Saltpeter-man ſhall addreſſe himſelfe for aſſiſtance, doe not faile, at his and their perils, to take preſent courſe therein, That his Maieſties Seruice ſuffer not by his or their default.

5. That no perſon or perſons, ſhall directly or indirectly, giue or offer to any Saltpeter-maker, deputy Saltpeter-man, or others, imployed about the getting or making of Saltpeter, any gratuity, benefit, hire or reward; Nor any ſuch Workeman imployed about Saltpeter, ſhall take or receiue any ſuch gratuity, benefit, hire, or reward, for the ſparing or forbearing of any ground or place, Which ſhould or may bee digged or Wrought for Saltpeter, or of any cariages thereunto belonging, or for concealing, or not diſcouering of any offence or offences, committed againſt the true meaning of this Proclamation, or otherWiſe to the hinderance of this Seruice.

6. That no Saltpeter-man, Who ſhall hereafter vſe and take the earth or flooze of any Doue-houſe or Douecoat, for their making of Saltpeter, ſhall digge or cary the ſame earth, but in ſuch conuenient time of the day, and Worke it in ſuch maner, as may giue leaſt diſturbance and hurt to the Pigeons, and encreaſe of their breed; and in the chiefe times of breeding, that it be not done aboue two houres in any one day, and that about the midſt of the day, When the Pigeons vſe to be abroad; And ſhall in like ſeaſonable time, cary in the ſaid earth after it ſhall be Wrought, and ſpread it there, and make flat the flooze of the ſame Douehouſe and Douecoat, and leaue it Well and orderly, according to the Direction and Inſtructions giuen by his Maieſties Commiſſion, and the Deputation thereupon made vnto him.

7. That all Saltpeter-men and Workers in Saltpeter, after they haue broken any other ſorts of ground, and Wrought ouer the earth taken from thence, doe, and ſhall afterWards Within conuenient time, before the remoone of their Worke from thence, fill vp the place againe, and leaue it in ſuch good and orderly caſe as they found the ſame, according to their Inſtructions aforeſayd; And that no oWner or poſſeſſour of any Douehouſe, or Grounds, ſhall hinder or diſturbe any Workemen from doing What is preſcribed in this, and the next precedent Article.

8. That no perſon or perſons Whatſoeuer, doe at any time hereafter make, or cauſe to be made for Seruice againſt any enemie, or for Sale, any Gunpowder of any Saltpeter, made, or to be made Within the Realme of England, or Dominion of Wales, but of ſuch Saltpeter onely, as is, or ſhall bee made by Warrant of his Maieſties Commiſſion, granted or to be granted in that behalfe.

9. That no Saltpeter man, or maker of Saltpeter, doe at any time hereafter tranſport, or cauſe to be tranſported into the parts beyond the Seas, or ſell, giue, vtter, or put to ſale, or cauſe to be ſold vttered, or put to ſale Within the ſayd Realme or Dominion, any Saltpeter, made Within the ſaid Realme of England, but onely to his Maieſties Storehouſe, to his Maieſties Powder-maker there: And that no perſon preſume to buy any Saltpeter, made by vertue of his Maieſties Commiſſion, but his Maieſties Powder-maker onely, to Whom it ſhall not be lawfull to receiue for any Powder to be ſold by him to his Maieſties Subiects, aboue ten pence the pound.

10. That no Powder Whatſoeuer, either made Within the Realme, or imported from forreigne parts, bee hereafter ſold or vttered Within this Realme, or Dominions aforeſaid, by any perſon or perſons, before the ſame be firſt tried, prooued, and allowed by the ſworne Prooke maſter, already appointed or to bee appointed, and by him marked, as hath beene heretofore vſed, Whereby his Maieſties louing Subiects may take notice of the ſorts of the ſaid Gunpowder, and the goodneſſe thereof, and the vſes to Which it may moſt aptly be applied.

11. That no perſon preſume or attempt to counterfeit the marke or markes, vſed, or to be vſed by the ſaid Prooke-maſter, to the purpoſe aforeſaid, Or doe Worke or put in practiſe any fraud, deceipt, or ſleight, by mixing or mingling any Gunpowder, or otherWiſe, Whereby his Maieſties meaning, before expreſſed, may be altered, diuerted, or abuſed.

12. That the Proofe-master, appointed and to be appointed, doe diligently attend to doe his duety faithfully and truely, in making proofe of the said Gunpowder, and to marke none but that which shalbe good and sufficient, and answerable to the markes; And that he take not aboue sixe pence Fee, for any Barrell of Powder of one hundred weight, which shall by him be tried, proued, and marked as aforesayd; and so proportionably not aboue that rate, for greater or lesser quantities.

ALl which Articles, and euery of them, His Maiestie doth hereby straitly charge and command all manner of persons, of what quality soeuer they be, duely to obserue and fulfill; And all Officers and persons in Authoritie, whom it may concerne, duely, carefully and diligently to see, and cause the same to be obserued, fulfilled, and put in execution, as they, and euery of them, will auoyde His Maiesties heauy displeasure, and the censure of being holden contemners of his Maiesties Royal Commandement, in a matter of high consequence, for the publique seruice, and safety of the State, and vpon such further penalties and punishments, as, for example of terrour to others, their contempts and want of duety shall demerit, and by his Maiesties Prerogatiue Royall, or otherwise shall be found fit in Honour and Justice to be inflicted vpon them.

And for the better and more speedy performance of this Seruice, His Maiesties will and pleasure is, That the Commissioners for the Naute, shall from time to time take notice of all such complaints, as shall be brought vnto them, touching any offence that shall be committed, contrary to this Proclamation, either in the neglecting, hindering, or disturbing this his Maiesties Seruice, or in abusing the Subiect: And that the said Commissioners shall certifie the same to his Maiesties right trustie, and right welbeloued Cousin and Counsellor, George Duke of Buckingham, Lord high Admirall of England and to His right trustie and welbeloued Councellor, George, Lord Carew, Master of the Ordenance, to whose speciall trust and care, his Maiestie hath committed the Gouernment of the sayd Businesse, by Commission vnder the great Seale of England: And that they, or either of them, shall from time to time send for all offenders complained of, and cause them to bee examined by the sayd Commissioners of the Naute; And vpon their report, take such further order therein, by referring the offenders to bee prosecuted in the high Court of Starre-Chamber, or otherwise, as to their wisedomes shall seeme meete; Commaunding and authorizing His Maiesties Attourney Generall, for the time being, vpon such Reference from the sayd Duke of Buckingham, or Lord Carew, or other information giuen vnto him, of any misdemeanour committed, contrary to the true meaning of any the Articles aforesayd, to prosecute and proceed against the sayd offenders, in the said high Court of Starre Chamber; It being His Maiesties expresse pleasure, That seuere punishment shall be executed vpon all the said offenders whatsoeuer.

Giuen at the Court at White-Hall, the thirteenth day of April, in the first yeere of his Maiesties Reigne of Great Britaine, France and Ireland.

God saue the King.

SOC. ANTIQV. LOND. NON SINE MVSIS 1717

¶ Printed at London by Bonham Norton and Iohn Bill,
Printers to the Kings most Excellent Maiestie.
M. DC. XXV.